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Tribute to the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Anne

LACHINE, May 26, 1995 A commemorative plaque of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada to honour the Sisters of Saint Anne was unveiled in Lachine today by Pierrefonds-Dollard M.P. Bernard Patry, on behalf of the Minister of Canadian Heritage, the Honourable Michel Dupuy. Mr. Patry praised the work of the Sisters and their significant contributions to the community.

On September 8, 1850, Marie-Esther Blondin, a teacher from Vaudreuil, under the patronage of Father Archambault, the parish priest of Vaudreuil, founded Les Filles de Sainte-Anne, as they were named in the original pastoral letter signed by Mgr. Ignace Bourget, the Bishop of Montreal. From that moment, Marie-Esther became Sister Marie-Anne and was appointed Superior of the newly-born congregation. In 1863, the congregation became known as the Sisters of Saint Anne.

Under the zealous and dynamic leadership of Sister Marie-Anne and her successors, the community expanded quickly. At this time, the mother house was permanently established in Lachine. By 1878, 18 schools were scattered in four dioceses (Montreal, Sherbrooke, Albany and Vancouver) and in New Westminster. This expansion reached Alaska and the Yukon, where in 1886, in Juneau, the Sisters of Saint Anne built a hospital for the miners. In 1991, the Congregation was bestowed a great honour when Pope John Paul II assigned Sister Marie-Anne the title of "Venerable".

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada advises the Minister of Canadian Heritage on the commemoration of people, events, or places of national significance in our history.

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